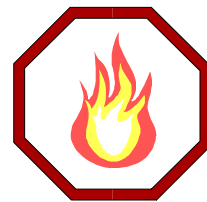


The National Arson Prevention Initiative



Federal Emergency Management Agency



U.S. Department of Justice



U.S. Department of the Treasury



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

"Arson poses a serious threat to our homes, our communities, and our way of life. The recent series of arson fires at houses of worship have touched us all. We must work together in our neighborhoods and communities to prevent these tragedies."

--James L. Witt

Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

About the National Arson Prevention Initiative

On June 19, 1996, President Clinton announced the National Arson Prevention Initiative (NAPI) in response to the recent series of fires at houses of worship. The President asked James L. Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, available Federal, State, local and private resources for arson prevention. These resources are available to individuals and communities in all states throughout the country.

National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse

A Clearinghouse for arson prevention resources has been established as a coordinating point of information about arson prevention resources. By calling the Clearinghouse, you can obtain arson prevention publications and information about available grants, training, and public education campaigns. Through the Clearinghouse, you can request free on-site fire safety inspections of houses of worship or arson prevention workshops for your community.

Call the Clearinghouse toll-free at: 1-888-603-3100.

Exemplary Practices in Arson Prevention



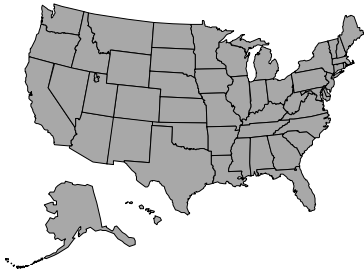
On June 26, 1996, President Clinton and leaders of eight national fire service organizations pledged partnership in the fight against the crime of arson and signed the President's Partnership for Fire and Arson Protection.

The fire organizations included: the Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management-International Society of Fire Service Instructors, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the National Volunteer Fire Council.



A total of 44 VISTA volunteers, through the Corporation for National Service, have been working in 67 counties in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee to promote arson prevention activities. In September, an additional 27 volunteers will begin working in these states as well as Louisiana.

**To report exemplary arson prevention in your community,
please call the Clearinghouse toll-free at 1-888-603-3100.**



Partnerships for Arson Prevention

Arson prevention efforts can be successful if Federal, State, local and community groups work in partnership.

FEMA Director Witt met with leaders of major fire and law enforcement organizations to discuss the NAPI. The organizations pledged to work together to combat the crime of arson.

The leaders of several major church and voluntary organizations met with Director Witt on July 23. These organizations will provide to local communities information about the arson prevention grants, publications, technical assistance and training opportunities that are available through the Clearinghouse.

The Department of Education supports the NAPI. Secretary Riley, the Secretary's Regional Representatives and leaders of national education organizations have been provided information about arson prevention resources which may be used by school systems nationwide in support of regular fire prevention programs.

Did You Know...

- Arson is the second leading cause of residential fire deaths.
- Arson claimed 700 lives in 1994.
- Annual dollar loss from arson is estimated at \$2 billion.
- Almost one in every four fires is arson. This represents about 500,000 arson fires each year.
- 55% of arson fires are set by juveniles.

**FEDERAL
RESOURCES
FOR ARSON
PREVENTION**

Arson Training Grants:

FEMA has released \$774,000 in funding to states for the purpose of enhancing the capability of State and local governments to train fire, law enforcement and other personnel in arson prevention, investigation and prosecution. Nationwide, all states will receive some portion of the funding.

HUD Crime Prevention Funding:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has authorized the use of two existing program funding sources to help prevent arson or other crimes directed against churches. Public Housing Assistance funds may be used for training residents and staff in the development of place-based crime prevention strategies. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding can be also used to help prevent crime or arson directed against churches.



Problem-Solving Partnership Grants:

The Department of Justice's existing Problem-Solving Partnership Grants, administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), can provide assistance to State and local governments for use in connection with church and arson prevention. These grants are intended to promote cooperative efforts between law enforcement and community institutions to solve local crime issues. Up to \$40 million in grants will be awarded.

Church Security and Protection:

President Clinton has made available \$6 million from the Department of Justice through the Bureau of Justice Assistance to 1,291 communities in 13 targeted southern states. These funds can be used to support efforts to enhance law enforcement, intensify surveillance of churches and other religious properties, hire additional employees, or reimburse overtime expenses. Applications have been mailed to eligible local governments.



**Additional information about the
National Arson Prevention Initiative or
programs described in this document are available through
the Clearinghouse at:
1-888-603-3100**

**If you have information that may aid in the investigation of
church arson please call the Department of Treasury's
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at:
1-888-ATF-FIRE**

